



# PROVOST BRIEFING

September 9, 2019

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## Convocation Speaker Hallie Hobson Meets with Students for a Poetry Writing Workshop

*Photo Credit: Kevin Salemmme*

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***Here are some of this week's top stories and a look ahead.***

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- Grant News
- Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meetings, September 10
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- Through Knowledge to Wisdom Conversations

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- Environmental Movie Nights/Programs
  - Caring for Our Common Home: Ecology Walk for the Campus, September 24
  - Empowered: Power from the People, September 26
- Campus Ministry Send Trips: Apply To Be An Advisor
- Improving Student Writing: Faculty Workshop Series on Best Practices, October 9 & December 3
- Last day for adding and dropping Fall Session 1 graduate online courses, September 9
- Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive, September 10
- Last day for adding and dropping courses, September 10
- Last day for conversion of “N” grade for Summer 2019, September 10
- Last day for converting to or from Audit, September 10
- Weekly Walks, September 11
- Weekly Mindful Activity (Meditation, Gentle Movement), September 11
- The Iliad, The Odyssey and All of Greek Mythology: A Comedy, September 11-14
- The Music Faculty Concert, September 22
- Fire and Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change, October 7

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## Grant News

It's been a busy summer in the Office of Sponsored Programs. Here is a listing of the grant proposals that have been submitted by faculty members during the months of June through August. Congratulations to all of these faculty members and best of luck!

| Name = PI                 | School                    | Project Title  | Funder/Agency                          | Proposal Amount |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| Leena Bharath             | Health Sciences           | Mitochondrial Aging Promotes Inflammation  | NIH / R-15                             | \$396,926       |
| Julia St Goar             | Science & Engineering     | Development of Research to Improve Undergraduate Student Outcomes in Mathematics   | NSF / EHR Core Research (ECR)          | \$193,003       |
| Doug White & Ann Gaitling | Science & Engineering     | Merrimack Valley STEM Teacher Expansion  | NSF / Noyce                            | \$1,434,290     |
| Ruth McKenzie             | Education & Social Policy | The Vietnam Era Twin Study of Cognition and Aging (VETSA 4)  | Boston University / UC San Diego / NIH | \$140,756       |
| James Kaklamanos          | Science & Engineering     | Evaluation of Near-Field Input Motion Selection and Site Response Using the 2018 M 7.1 Anchorage Earthquake: Collaborative Research with North Carolina State University | USGS                                   | \$30,147        |
| James Kaklamanos          | Science & Engineering     | Evaluation of Near-Field Input Motion Selection and Site Response Using the 2018 M 7.1 Anchorage Earthquake: Collaborative Research with Tufts University                | USGS                                   | \$40,196        |

|   |                           |  |                                       |           |
|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Alyssa Yetter   | Education & Social Policy | Social Programs as Violence Prevention? The Impact of Government Assistance Programs on Youth Violence in the United States. | Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation     | \$30,011  |
| Brittnie Aiello & Emma Duffy-Comparone                | Education & Social Policy | Jail Education Program   | Alliance for Higher Education         | \$25,000  |
| Brittnie Aiello & Emma Duffy-Comparone                | Education & Social Policy | Jail Education Program   | Mabel Louise Riley Foundation         | \$92,000  |
| Brittnie Aiello & Emma Duffy-Comparone                | Education & Social Policy | Jail Education Program   | Rising Tide Foundation                | \$150,000 |
| Brittnie Aiello, Emma Duffy-Comparone & Nicole Frisch | Education & Social Policy | Jail Education Program   | Ascendium Education Solutions         | \$150,000 |
| Brittnie Aiello & Emma Duffy-Comparone                | Education & Social Policy | Jail Education Program   | Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation | \$150,000 |
| Michael Mascolo                                       | Liberal Arts              | Creating Common Ground: Tending to the Pleas Behind Positions We Hate  | John Templeton Foundation             | \$231,196 |
| Lisa O'Brien  | Education & Social Policy | Reducing Educational Inequities for Urban Youth  | William T. Grant Foundation           | \$565,000 |
| <b>Total Number Submitted: 14</b>                     |                           |  |                                       |           |
| <b>Total \$ Amount Submitted: \$3,628,525</b>         |                           |  |                                       |           |

## Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meetings

**Tuesday, September 10**

**4:00 PM**

The Academic Success Center has organized our annual "Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising Meeting," which takes place on the second Tuesday of the semester during the free block. The primary goal is to give first-year students an opportunity to meet their primary advisor earlier. Faculty who have first-year student advisees will meet with a group of their advisees. The meeting will take place in the faculty office - if the group is small enough - or in a classroom. For more information on how this serves as an opportunity for advisors, visit the [Second Tuesday First-Year Student Advising](#) page.

## Fulbright Scholar Program - Faculty Information Session

**Wednesday, September 11**

**4:00 PM**

**Provost Conference Room**

Please join us to learn more about the Fulbright Scholar Program. We will be joined by Grant Stream-Gonzalez, who is the Outreach and Recruitment Officer with the Institute of International Education. He will provide an overview of the Fulbright Scholar Program and can answer any questions that you may have. While the application deadline for this year is quickly approaching, this is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the application process and to get advice on how to search for international opportunities that might dovetail with your professional interests. If you would like to join us, please RSVP by **Tuesday, September 10** by responding to this [Google Form](#). For more information, please contact Vice Provost Sean Condon at [condonj@merrimack.edu](mailto:condonj@merrimack.edu).

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## Reminder - Sabbatical Letters Due by September 15

A reminder that any eligible faculty member who wishes to take a sabbatical leave needs to submit a letter of application by September 15. As noted in Section 5.6.3 of the Faculty Handbook:

*Any eligible faculty member who wishes to take a sabbatical leave shall indicate such in a letter of application to the department chair that shall be copied to the Dean of the School and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.*

All letters to the Provost should be sent to [officeoftheprovo@merrimack.edu](mailto:officeoftheprovo@merrimack.edu).

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## Through Knowledge to Wisdom Conversations

- **Thursday, September 12, Noon - 1:30 PM**  
Taylor Chapel of St. Augustine, 3rd Floor SAK
- **Monday, September 16, 3:30 - 5:00 PM**  
Boardroom, Arcidi Hall
- **Wednesday, September 18, 8:00 - 9:30 AM**  
Boardroom, Arcidi Hall
- **Tuesday, September 24, 2:00 - 3:30 PM**  
Boardroom, Arcidi Hall
- **Friday, September 27, 10:30 AM-Noon**  
Boardroom, Arcidi Hall

The Office of Mission and Ministry will be offering a series of opportunities for faculty, staff, and administrators to spend some time each month reflecting on and conversing about ways in which the Catholic and Augustinian tradition, upon which Merrimack College is founded, might influence us as we do our work today. A different topic will be suggested for each month and during the month, five different opportunities will be offered for us to gather with one another for a conversation facilitated by Father Ray Dlugos. For September, the topic will be *How might Saint Augustine of Hippo influence our thoughts, words, and actions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?* If you would like to join us, please RSVP by responding to this [Google Form](#).

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## Interdisciplinary Institute Events for September

### Reception for 2019-2020 Presidential Fellows

Thursday, September 19

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Cascia Hall

## **Team Teaching Workshop**

**Friday, September 20 & Saturday, September 21**

**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**CETL Conference Room**

For a list of additional events planned for Fall 2019, see the [Interdisciplinary Institute's webpage](#).  
For more information contact Simona Sharoni at [director.institute@merrimack.edu](mailto:director.institute@merrimack.edu)

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## **MINTS Workshop: Academic Conversations with English**

**Thursday, September 19, 2019**

**4:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Crowe Hall, Room 107**

*Academic conversations motivate students and foster engagement. During paired conversations, students engage in listening and speaking at increasingly complex levels of discourse. Workshop participants will brainstorm ideas for anchor charts with sentence frames and prompts, create a well-crafted prompt, participate in discussions, and analyze video recordings of students' language production using rubrics and other tools. This approach aligns with culturally responsive teaching practices. This MINTS workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Sara Hamerla, Administrator of ELL Programs in the Waltham Public Schools.*

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## **Donna Harrington-Lueker**

**Tuesday, September 24**

**4:00 PM**

**The Writers House**

Donna Harrington-Lueker's *Books for Idle Hours: Nineteenth-Century Publishing and the Rise of Summer Reading* draws upon letters, diaries, archival materials, and an array of nineteenth-century popular novels set at summer resorts, to show how the practice of light summer reading (AKA the "beach read") takes shape in the nineteenth century. In addition to this book, her academic work has appeared in the *Keats-Shelley Journal*, *Journalism History*, and *Nineteenth Century Studies*. The campus visit is a homecoming for Harrington-Lueker who graduated from Merrimack College in 1976 with a major in English.

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## **Environmental Movie Nights/Programs:**

**Celebrating [Climate Preparedness Week](#) September 24-30**

### **Caring for Our Common Home: Ecology Walk for the Campus**

**Tuesday, September 24**

More information can be found [here](#)

- **5:00 - 6:00 PM, McQuade Library**  
Help yourself to the vegan chili bar while you make a ribbon for the [International Climate Ribbon Project](#).
- **6:00 - 7:00PM Eco Walk Starts from McQuade**  
Join us in Shalom, Peace, Salaam, Shanti! Local faith leaders will speak at each stop, with reflections on caring for our campus, each other, and the Earth as we enter a new year together. [RSVP](#) appreciated.

## **Empowered: Power from the People**

Film Screening

Thursday, September 26, 7:00 PM

McQuade Library

"Tompkins County, NY is one of the cloudiest, least windy places in the country, and yet its residents are proving that they can meet their energy needs through totally renewable resources. From solar and wind to biodiesel and geothermal, [\*Empowered: Power from the People\*](#) tells the story of one community's role in the energy independence revolution." - [empoweredthemovie.com](http://empoweredthemovie.com).

These events are made possible by support from the McLaughlin Martin Family Environmental Innovation Fund through the Center for Sustainability and the Environment..

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## **Campus Ministry Send Trips: Apply To Be An Advisor**

Would you like to dedicate a week of your winter, spring, or summer break to service - and be more deeply involved in the life of our community at Merrimack? Apply to be an Advisor on a campus ministry Send Trip! Week-long service trips through campus ministry have a 50+ year tradition here at Merrimack College. In 2019-2020, our students will travel to nine different locations in January, March, and June to answer the call to solidarity with communities across our country and the world. But we can't do it without your help.

As an advisor, you will:

- participate alongside student leaders and participants in service & immersion opportunities
- make connections with students off-campus
- support the formation of student-leaders
- learn about the intersection between justice and faith in our Augustinian Catholic tradition

Faculty, staff, and graduate students are all welcome to apply for this unique role.

Advisor applications (and more information about the Send Program) for this year's trips are now available on the [campus ministry website](#). Applications are due **September 27**. Please email Nicole Benevenia at [benevenian@merrimack.edu](mailto:benevenian@merrimack.edu) or visit the Grace J. Palmisano Campus Ministry Center if you have any questions.

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## **Improving Student Writing: Faculty Workshop Series on Best Practices**

Sessions held in the CETL classroom, Sullivan Hall, B-2

[Registration link](#)

### **Providing Effective Feedback on Student Writing**

Wednesday, October 9, 2:00 - 3:15 PM

Do you find that students don't use your feedback on their writing the way you would like, or worse, don't seem to use it at all? This interactive workshop will focus on best practices for improving student writing through effective, efficient commenting. Participants will leave with



concrete strategies for maximizing the impact of their feedback while simultaneously reducing the time and effort it takes to give it.

### **Designing Quality Writing Assignments**

**Tuesday, December 3, 4:00 - 5:15 PM**

**Sullivan Hall B-2, CETL Conference Room**

Clear, engaging, and meaningful writing assignments provide opportunities for students to both enhance their writing abilities and demonstrate their learning. This hands-on workshop will explore a variety of objectives for formal assignments, strategies for linking them effectively to course content, and methods for increasing student engagement. Participants will have the chance to analyze one of their own assignments in light of the discussion.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, The Writing Intensive Committee, and The Writing Center

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## **Other Events this Week**

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### **September 10th**

**Last day for adding and dropping Fall Session 1 graduate online courses**

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### **September 10th**

**Read On-The-Go with Libby and Overdrive**

**Noon - 1:00 PM**

**McQuade Library's ERC (2nd floor, yellow room)**

Looking for a way to get fun books and audiobooks in the palms of your hands? Come to one of McQuade's monthly workshops and a librarian will show you the ins and outs of the Libby app by Overdrive. This app gives you free access to e-books, audiobooks, and magazines on your smartphone, tablet, and even your desktop. Bring your lunch and learn! **RSVP here:**

<http://bit.ly/LibbyWorkshop>

**Additional dates: October 16, November 21, and December 9**

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### **September 10th**

**Last day for adding and dropping courses**

**Last day for conversion of "N" grade for Summer 2019**

**Last day for converting to or from Audit**

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### **September 11th**

**Weekly Walks**

**Wednesdays at Noon**

**Meet in front of McQuade**

We'll walk outside weather permitting or the Sak track if not. Open to everyone!

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### **September 11th**

**Weekly Mindful Activity (Meditation, Gentle Movement)**

**Wednesdays at 4:00 PM**

**Meet at McQuade Meditation Space (Lower Level)**

Drop by the meditation space on the lower level at McQuade (bring a class for a visit).

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## **September 11th - 14th**

**The Iliad, The Odyssey and All of Greek Mythology: A Comedy**

**September 11, 11:00 AM**

**September 12, 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM**

**September 13, 7:30 PM**

**September 14, 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts**

As the clock ticks away, this cast of professional actors speeds through ALL of Greek mythology...or else! This funny, updated and easy-to-understand crash course will have you rolling in the aisles. All the silly decisions, absurd destinies, and goofy characters of Ancient Greece are presented at lightning-bolt speed with hysterical results. Written by: Jay Hopkins and John Hunter, Directed by: Evan Kelly

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## **Future Events**

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### **The Music Faculty Concert**

**Sunday, September 22**

**2:00 PM**

**Rogers Center for the Arts**

"French Connections" Merrimack's own music faculty will explore the connections between French impressionism and American jazz. The program will feature music by French composers—Debussy, Tailleferre and others—who created musical impressionism and were strongly influenced by ragtime and early jazz. The music of American jazz composers who brought sophisticated, impressionistic harmonies to jazz—including George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Alice Coltrane and Kay Swift—will also be featured. Performers will include Cristi Catt and Laura Moore Pruett, sopranos; Hugh Hinton, piano; Joseph Gotoff, cello; Paul Geresy, percussion; plus special guests.

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### **Fire and Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change**

**Sneak-Peek Film Screening with Live Q and A with the film's creator**

**Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 PM**

**McQuade Library**

"[Fire & Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change](https://queerproject.org/firefloodfilm)" tells the story of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the fires in Santa Rosa, California, two-near simultaneous climate-related disasters in the fall of 2017, through the voices of LGBTQ people who lived through them and were part of the community response. The film explores the vulnerability of LGBTQ communities to climate disasters and also lifts up queer and trans strategies for resilience, transition, and survival. "Fire and Flood" was piloted at the National LGBTQ Task Force's Creating Change Conference in January 2018, with positive feedback on the need for these stories in the LGBTQ movement. - [queerproject.org/firefloodfilm](https://queerproject.org/firefloodfilm). This event is made possible by support from the McLaughlin Martin Family Environmental Innovation Fund.

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